



GREEN SPRING GARDENS PARK

PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

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RECOMMENDED DECIDUOUS TREES AND LARGE DECIDUOUS SHRUBS FOR THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Trees are beloved for the shade, beauty, screening, environment benefits, and wildlife habitat they provide. Deciduous trees, whose leaves die and fall off in the autumn, are valuable additions to landscapes because of their changing interest throughout the year. Tree selection and placement should be done carefully - trees are dominant features in the landscape due to their stature and potential for long life.

The following are useful definitions:

- **Border** - a bed that is longer than wide and planted with trees, shrubs, flowers, and/or other types of plants. May be backed by walls, fences, or hedges and is chiefly viewed from one side. Free-standing island beds are a variation on the border.
- **Cultivar (cv.)** - a cultivated variety designated by single quotes (e.g., 'October Glory'). A **variety (var.)** or **subspecies (subsp.)**, in contrast, is found in nature and is a subdivision of a species.
- **Full Shade** - the amount of light under a dense deciduous tree canopy or beneath evergreens.
- **Naturalistic Use** - native plants that, when properly sited, perform well with minimal care; best used in an informal design that suggests a natural landscape.
- **Part Shade** - the amount of light in an area shaded part of the day, among deciduous trees with high branches, among deciduous trees with foliage that is not heavy, or among thinned deciduous woods.
- **Specimen** - an ornamental plant situated alone in a prominent, uncrowded space.
- **Street Tree** - a tree that tolerates stresses common near roads such as soil compaction, confined root zones, drought, air pollution, high salt levels, and high heat levels.

The following is a list of deciduous trees and large shrubs that perform well in the Washington, D.C. area. Plants that are generally grown as shrubs are noted. Most of these plants prefer full sun (at least 6 hours of sun daily) but tolerate light shade. Most also prefer a moist, well-drained site. Special cultural requirements or tolerances are noted. Recommended cultivars are listed in parentheses. Species that are native to Virginia are marked with an asterisk (*).

[Gold Medal Plant Awards are given annually by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to underused woody plants that perform especially well in gardens from New York City to Washington, D.C.]

LARGE DECIDUOUS TREES (60+ FEET TALL)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Acer rubrum</i> * (October Glory®, Red Sunset® ['Franksred'])	Red Maple	Shade tree, street tree, or naturalistic use; tolerates dry or wet sites & shade; too abundant in some natural areas now due to low fire frequency
<i>A. saccharum</i> * (‘Commemoration’, ‘Legacy’) Note: <i>A. saccharinum</i> * (Silver Maple) – naturalistic use	Sugar Maple	Specimen, shade tree, or naturalistic use; shade tolerant
<i>Aesculus flava</i> *	Yellow Buckeye	Shade tree, specimen, or naturalistic use; tolerates dry sites & shade
<i>Betula nigra</i> * (‘Heritage’ [Gold Medal Award])	River Birch	Specimen, groups, shade tree, or naturalistic use; best in periodically wet or moist sites
<i>Carya illinoensis</i> (native to TN, etc.) & many other species such as <i>C. ovata</i> * (Shagbark Hickory) & <i>C. glabra</i> * (Pignut Hickory)	Pecan	Shade tree or naturalistic use; generally easy to garden under; tolerates dry sites; <i>C. ovata</i> is shade tolerant; buy small plants – taprooted
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> * <i>F. sylvatica</i> (‘Fastigiata’, forma <i>pendula</i> , ‘Riversii’)	American Beech European Beech	Specimen or shade tree; also naturalistic use for <i>F. grandifolia</i> ; shade tolerant
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (‘Princeton Sentry’ is an upright cv.)	Ginkgo	Street tree, specimen, or shade tree; tolerates dry sites
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> *	Kentucky Coffee Tree	Shade tree, specimen, or naturalistic use; tolerates dry sites
<i>Juglans nigra</i> *	Black Walnut	Shade tree or naturalistic use; shade tolerant; has been easy to garden under at Green Spring (toxic to a few plants like tomatoes, but not toxic to most plants); tolerates dry sites
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> * (‘Rotundiloba’ sets no fruit but can revert to the parent type)	Sweet Gum	Shade tree, street tree, or naturalistic use; tolerates wet or dry sites
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> *	Tulip Tree	Shade tree or naturalistic use in large sites because tallest eastern U.S. native; shade tolerant; easy to garden under
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> [Gold Medal Award]	Dawn Redwood	Specimen or groups in moist or wet sites
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> *	Sour Gum	Shade tree, specimen, or naturalistic use; tolerates dry or periodically wet sites

<i>Quercus alba</i> * [Gold Medal Award]	White Oak	Shade tree or naturalistic use for all listed oaks; shade tolerant
<i>Q. bicolor</i> *	Swamp White Oak	Tolerant of wet sites & shade; can be used as a street tree
<i>Q. coccinea</i> *	Scarlet Oak	Full sun to light shade
<i>Q. lyrata</i> *	Overcup Oak	Full sun to part shade; tolerant of wet sites
<i>Q. palustris</i> *	Pin Oak	Full sun to light shade; tolerant of wet sites
<i>Q. phellos</i> *	Willow Oak	Shade tolerant; can be used as a street tree; can tolerate periodically wet sites
<i>Q. rubra</i> *	Red Oak	Shade tolerant; can be used as a street tree
Note: Other native oaks that are attractive (need to buy small plants because of taproots): <i>Q. falcata</i> *, <i>imbricaria</i> *, <i>macrocarpa</i> *, <i>marilandica</i> *, <i>michauxii</i> *, <i>muehlenbergii</i> *, <i>prinus</i> *, <i>stellata</i> *, & <i>velutina</i> *		Note: oaks are generally easy to garden under. Most oaks are tolerant of dry sites.
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> *	Bald Cypress	Specimen, groups, or naturalistic use; best in wet or moist sites
<i>Tilia cordata</i> <i>T. 'Petiolaris'</i> <i>T. tomentosa</i> Note: <i>T. americana</i> * (Basswood) is a lovely native for naturalistic use (coarse texture; shade tolerant)	Littleleaf Linden Pendent Silver Linden Silver Linden	Shade or street tree; tolerate dry sites
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> Note: <i>U. americana</i> * (American Elm) cvs. resistant to Dutch elm disease include 'Delaware #2', 'Valley Forge', & 'Washington'; American elm is still plentiful in natural areas & should be planted occasionally (street tree or shade tree; very adaptable – tolerates dry or periodically wet sites)	Chinese Elm	Shade tree, groups, or specimen for Chinese elm; tolerates dry sites
<i>Zelkova serrata</i> (‘Green Vase’ [Gold Medal Award])	Japanese Zelkova	Shade tree, groups, or street tree; tolerates dry sites

Large native trees primarily for naturalistic use or special habitat uses:

*Celtis occidentalis** (Northern Hackberry), *Diospyros virginiana** (Persimmon), *Fraxinus americana** (White Ash), *Fraxinus pennsylvanica** (Green Ash), *Morus rubra** (Red Mulberry), *Platanus occidentalis** (Sycamore), *Prunus serotina** (Black Cherry), *Robinia pseudoacacia** (Black Locust), & *Salix nigra** (Black Willow)

MEDIUM-SIZED DECIDUOUS TREES (30-60 FEET TALL)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Acer buergerianum</i> [Gold Medal Award]	Trident Maple	Specimen, street tree, or groups; tolerates dry sites
<i>Aesculus × carnea</i> ('Fort McNair' – pink flowers; 'O'Neill' – red flowers)	Red Horsechestnut	Specimen or groups; tolerates dry sites
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> ('Fastigiata') <i>C. caroliniana</i> * (<i>C. japonica</i> [Japanese Hornbeam] is a small tree)	European Hornbeam American Hornbeam	Specimen or groups; <i>C. caroliniana</i> can also be used in naturalistic plantings; tolerant of shade & dry sites
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> (<i>C. magnificum</i> is similar & is considered to be the same species by some authorities; smaller weeping forms are also available)	Katsura Tree	Specimen or borders in moist sites
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> (<i>lutea</i>) [Gold Medal Award] (native to NC, etc.; 'Rosea' ['Perkins Pink'])	Yellowwood	Shade tree, groups, specimen, or naturalistic use; tolerant of part shade & dry sites
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i> var. <i>tetraptera</i> * (was called <i>H. carolina</i> but a different species now) Note: <i>H. diptera</i> is a lovely medium-sized tree that is native to SC, etc. [Gold Medal Award]	Mountain Silverbell	Shade tree, specimen, or naturalistic use; light shade to part shade
<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i> * (<i>M. ashei</i> [FL native] is similar to <i>M. macrophylla</i> but a small tree or large shrub; <i>M. tripetala</i> * is a smaller-leaved tree that is often a small tree in stature)	Bigleaf Magnolia	Specimen, border, or naturalistic use; tolerant of part shade; <i>M. fraseri</i> * is smaller leaved also but harder to grow than <i>M. tripetala</i>
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> *	Sourwood	Specimen, groups, or naturalistic use; tolerant of part shade; moist sites best
<i>Parrotia persica</i> [Gold Medal Award]	Persian Parrotia	Specimen or border; tolerates dry sites
<i>Prunus sargentii</i> ('Columnaris')	Sargent Cherry	Specimen, border, or groups
<i>Sassafras albidum</i> *	Sassafras	Groups, massing (suckers), or naturalistic use; tolerates dry sites

Medium-sized native trees primarily for naturalistic use or special habitat uses:

*Acer negundo** (Boxelder, Ash-leaved Maple) & *Ostrya virginiana** (American Hop Hornbeam; can also use as a shade tree but difficult to locate commercially)

SMALL DECIDUOUS TREES AND LARGE DECIDUOUS SHRUBS (12-30 FEET TALL)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<p><i>Acer henryi</i> (<i>A. cissifolium</i> subsp. <i>henryi</i>)</p> <p><i>A. davidii</i> subsp. <i>grosseri</i>, <i>A. pensylvanicum</i>*, & <i>A. rufrinerve</i> (others to consider include <i>A. capillipes</i>, <i>A. davidii</i>, & <i>A. tegmentosum</i>)</p> <p><i>A. griseum</i> [Gold Medal Award]; <i>A. triflorum</i> (Three-flowered Maple) also has exfoliating bark [Gold Medal Award]</p> <p><i>A. japonicum</i> 'Aconitifolium' & 'Vitifolium'</p> <p><i>A. palmatum</i> ('Bloodgood' & 'Moonfire' are excellent purple-leaved cvs.; 'Sango Kaku' ['Sangokaku'] has coral-colored young stems in the fall & winter; many other excellent cvs.)</p> <p><i>A. tataricum</i> subsp. <i>ginnala</i> (<i>A. ginnala</i>)</p>	<p>Henry Maple</p> <p>Snakebark Maple</p> <p>Paperbark Maple</p> <p>Fullmoon Maple</p> <p>Japanese Maple</p> <p>Amur Maple</p>	<p>Specimen or border; tolerant of part shade</p> <p>Border or woodland setting; also naturalistic use for <i>A. pensylvanicum</i>; light shade to part shade</p> <p>Specimen or border; tolerant of part shade</p> <p>Susceptible to drought & verticillium wilt so not as tough as many maple species</p> <p>Specimen, screen, groups, street tree, or border; tolerates dry sites</p>
<p><i>Aesculus pavia</i> [Gold Medal Award]; native to NC, etc. – possibly native to VA)</p>	<p>Red Buckeye</p>	<p>Specimen, border, or naturalistic use; light shade to part shade; tolerates dry sites</p>
<p><i>Amelanchier arborea</i>*, <i>A. laevis</i>* & <i>A. × grandiflora</i>* (USDA says this is <i>A. laevis</i>; 'Autumn Brilliance' & 'Princess Diana')</p> <p>Note: <i>A. canadensis</i>* likes moist to wet sites</p>	<p>Juneberry, Serviceberry, Shadblow</p>	<p>Specimen, border, groups, or naturalistic use; tolerant of part shade & dry sites</p>
<p><i>Aralia spinosa</i>* (generally grown as a large shrub)</p>	<p>Devil's Walking Stick</p>	<p>Groups, massing (suckers), or naturalistic use; tolerates dry sites & some shade</p>
<p><i>Asimina triloba</i>*</p>	<p>Pawpaw</p>	<p>Groups, screen, border, massing (suckers), or naturalistic use; tolerant of full shade; delicious fruit (need two genetically different plants for good fruit production); tolerates dry sites in shady areas</p>
<p><i>Cercis canadensis</i>* (var. <i>canadensis</i>* is our local native; 'Forest Pansy' – purple leaves; 'Silver Cloud' – white variegated leaves [a slow grower that likes some shade]; var. <i>texensis</i> 'Oklahoma' & 'Texas White' – glossy leaves & slower growing)</p>	<p>Eastern Redbud</p>	<p>Specimen, border, or naturalistic use; tolerant of part shade & dry sites</p>

<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> *	White Fringetree	Specimen, border, naturalistic use, or groups; tolerant of part shade & periodically wet sites
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> * <i>C. kousa</i> ('National Arboretum', 'Southern Cross') Note: beloved <i>C. florida</i> * (flowering dogwood): best at forest's edge to minimize anthracnose problems (a fungus) & reduce drought stress; 'Appalachian Spring' is supposed to be anthracnose-resistant but not commercially available <i>C. mas</i> ('Golden Glory' [Gold Medal Award] & 'Spring Glow'; <i>C. officinalis</i> is similar but has exfoliating bark) <i>C. Aurora</i> ('Rutban') & <i>C. Ruth Ellen</i> ('Rutlan') [Gold Medal Awards]	Pagoda Dogwood Kousa Dogwood Cornelian Cherry Dogwood Hybrid Dogwoods	Border or naturalistic use; full sun (moist site) to part shade Specimen, groups, or border; <i>C. florida</i> can also be used in naturalistic plantings; tolerant of part shade The most tolerant species in this genus of dry sites No fruit production - never invasive
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i> (native to TN, etc.; often shrub-like) Note: <i>C. coggygria</i> is more shrub-like; <i>C. 'Grace'</i> is a hybrid between the two species	American Smoketree	Specimen, groups, or border; tolerates dry sites
<i>Crataegus viridis</i> var. <i>viridis</i> * 'Winter King' [Gold Medal Award] Note: other natives for naturalistic use include <i>C. crus-galli</i> * & <i>C. phaenopyrum</i> *	Winter King Hawthorn	Border, groups, or naturalistic use; tolerates dry sites
<i>Euscaphis japonica</i>	Euscaphis	Border or groups
<i>Hamamelis × intermedia</i> ('Arnold Promise', 'Diane' [Gold Medal Award], 'Jelena', 'Pallida' [Gold Medal Award; sold as <i>H. mollis</i> 'Pallida'], & many others) <i>H. vernalis</i> 'Sandra' (species native to MO, etc.; 'Sandra' is probably a hybrid) <i>H. virginiana</i> *	Hybrid Witch Hazel Sandra Witch Hazel Common Witch Hazel	Specimen, groups, or border; tolerant of part shade Specimen, screen, naturalistic use, or groups; tolerant of part shade
<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i> [Gold Medal Award]; generally grown as a large shrub	Seven-son Flower	Border or groups

<p><i>Prunus</i> 'Hally Jolivette' [Gold Medal Award]; one parent is <i>P. subhirtella</i>; two <i>P. subhirtella</i> selections for larger gardens because they are broad at maturity - 'Autumnalis' (blooms lightly in the fall & heavier in the spring) & 'Pendula' (spring bloom)</p> <p><i>P. mume</i> ('Peggy Clarke')</p> <p><i>P.</i> 'Okame' [Gold Medal Award]</p> <p><i>P. × yedoensis</i> ('Akebono')</p>	<p>Hally Jolivette Cherry</p> <p>Flowering Apricot, Chinese Plum</p> <p>Okame Cherry</p> <p>Yoshino Cherry</p>	<p>Specimen, groups, or border</p>
<p><i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>*</p>	<p>Hoptree</p>	<p>Border, groups, or naturalistic use; tolerant of part shade</p>
<p><i>Salix alba</i> var. <i>chermesina</i> (Red-stemmed Willow; orange-red stems in winter) & var. <i>sericea</i> (forma <i>argentea</i>; Silver Willow)</p> <p><i>S. elaeagnos</i></p>	<p>Shrubby Willows</p> <p>Rosemary Willow</p>	<p>Border; treat as cutback shrubs yearly to control size & enhance winter stem color of var. <i>chermesina</i>; if don't cut back get to be large trees; moist to wet sites</p> <p>Border or groups; full sun to light shade in moist to wet sites</p>
<p><i>Staphylea trifolia</i>*</p> <p>(<i>S. colchica</i> is an attractive non-native)</p>	<p>American Bladdernut</p>	<p>Border or groups; naturalistic use for <i>S. trifolia</i></p>
<p><i>Styrax japonicus</i> ('Emerald Pagoda' ['Sohuksan']; 'Pink Chimes' can be shrubbier than the species)</p> <p><i>S. obassia</i></p> <p>Note: Native plant enthusiasts will like <i>S. americana</i>* - large shrub or small tree that blooms best in full sun to light shade in moist to wet sites (it suckers). Similar genera with similar uses & cultural requirements: <i>Pterostyrax corymbosa</i> (Little Epaulette Tree) & <i>Sinojackia rehderiana</i> (Jacktree).</p>	<p>Japanese Snowbell</p> <p>Fragrant Snowbell</p>	<p>Specimen, groups, or border; tolerant of part shade</p> <p>Groups or border; light shade to part shade; moist sites best</p>
<p><i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>*</p> <p><i>V. rufidulum</i>*</p>	<p>Blackhaw Viburnum</p> <p>Southern Blackhaw Viburnum</p>	<p>Border, groups, or naturalistic use; need at least 2 plants of the same species w/ different genetic backgrounds to produce fruit; tolerate dry sites</p>

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